

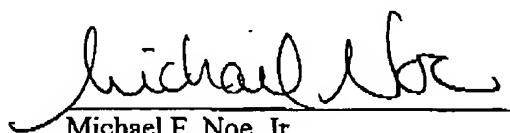
REMARKS

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of Claims 10 – 16, and the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the stated objections to numerous other claims. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten Claim 1 with the language of canceled Claim 5. Claims 1 – 9 are now in condition for allowance.

Independent method Claim 17 was rewritten to require the workpiece to first be secured in the hoop *before* the hoop is mounted in the first hoop holder. This sequence is possible because one embodiment of Applicant's hoop is a traditional, two-piece hoop design that captures and secures material between the two hoop pieces. In contrast, the cited prior art reference, *Krasnitz*, uses "a one-piece frame" 10. Col.3, line 24. The one-piece frame 10 requires the platen 28 (i.e., its hoop holder) to be involved in the very first step (i.e., "combined platen 28, support frame 10 and backing material 40"). Col.5, lines 13-17. Frame 10 must be seated in groove 32 in platen 28 to ensure registration. Col.4, lines 40-48. A workpiece cannot be properly secured to frame 10 and registered by itself without first seating frame 10 in groove 32. *Krasnitz* requires the platen 28 and, in some cases, backing 40 to adequately secure the workpiece. Col.4, lines 8-12; and col.4, line 55 through col.5, line 11. Thus, this amendment makes Claim 17 and its dependent allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.**

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Noe, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,975
BRACEWELL & GIULIANI LLP
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(512) 472-7800

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS